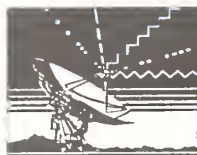


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# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1500

Letter No. 2690

December 2, 1994

**NEW FSA OFFICIALS --** Key officials of the new Farm Service Agency were announced (November 30) by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger. Rashid Nuri will serve as the Acting Deputy Administrator for Management. The Acting Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations will be Alan King. George Aldaya will fill in as the Acting Deputy Administrator for Program Delivery, and Acting Controller will be Harvey Wiley. Permanent appointments to these positions will be made at a later date. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**JOINT COMMISSION ON GRAINS --** The Canadian and U.S. Joint Commission on Grains concluded discussions (November 23) on the commission's mandate and action plan. The Commissioners agreed on an initial list of issues to address and how the commission will operate. The Joint Commission will seek to improve the general understanding of the Canadian and U.S. policies and systems for cereal grains and products in order to achieve lasting solutions for the mutual benefit of farmers and the agri-food industry in North America. Comments on the new commission are welcome. **Contact: Wayne Baggett (202) 720-2032.**

**AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS NEAR RECORD --** Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger announced (November 23) that U.S. agricultural exports reached \$43.5 billion in fiscal year 1994, up \$1 billion from fiscal 1993 and the second highest dollar value on record. Combined U.S. exports of agricultural, fish, and forestry products climbed to a new high of \$53.5 billion, up \$600 million from the previous record set in fiscal 1993. The U.S. agricultural trade surplus was more than \$17 billion. **Contact: Eric Van Chantfort (202) 720-9443.**

**AUSTRALIAN BEEF STILL ON HOLD --** USDA will continue to hold shipments of beef from the Australian territories of Queensland and New South Wales. Until testing is completed for residues of chlorfluazuron, a chemical compound that may be present in some meat exported to the U.S., that beef will not be allowed into the country. Acting Under Secretary for Food Safety Michael Taylor said, "Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is working to gather all available information on the chemical chlorfluazuron." FSIS officials said available data do not suggest the need for a recall of Australian beef that has passed through port of entry inspection. **Contact: Jacque Knight (202) 720-9113.**

**PEST-FREE TRADE --** A working group of USDA officials and their Russian counterparts has met to ensure that Asian gypsy moths do not hitch a ride on cargo ships into the U.S. Acting Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Lonnie King said, "By monitoring Asian gypsy moth populations around ports with direct ship traffic from Russia to the U.S., we can determine which ships might harbor hitchhiking moths. Then USDA can inspect those ships en route to prevent moths from flying ashore." The Asian gypsy moth is similar to the European gypsy moth that is found in the Northeastern U.S. Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the Asian gypsy moth is the ability of the female to fly, unlike the European-strain female. **Contact: Ed Curlett (301) 436-3256.**

**FEDERAL MILK ORDERS** -- USDA is recommending the merger of five federal milk orders in the Southern U.S. Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Lon Hatamiya said, "The proposed merger is based on a hearing held last November in Atlanta. USDA's recommended decision would merge the Georgia, Alabama-West Florida, Greater Louisiana, New Orleans-Mississippi and Central Arkansas marketing areas into a new "Southeast area." The new area would also include the territory of the former Memphis and Nashville, TN, milk marketing areas. **Contact: Gil High (202) 720-8998.**

**HONG KONG AND NEAR EAST ELIGIBLE FOR MORE EGGS** -- Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced (November 29) that Hong Kong and six countries in the Near East region are eligible for an additional 30 million and 25 million dozen eggs, respectively, under the USDA's Export Enhancement Program. The Near East region includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. Egg sales will be made through commercial channels at competitive world prices. **Contact: Maureen Quinn (202) 720-9444.**

**ANDRE' NAMED NAL DIRECTOR** -- Pamela Q.J. Andre' has been named Director of USDA's National Agricultural Library (NAL), replacing Joseph H. Howard who retired February 3, 1994. Andre' has served in various library management positions with the federal government over a 28-year career. She had been Acting NAL Director since Howard's retirement. NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world, with more than 2.1 million volumes and receiving 22,000 periodicals annually. **Contact: Brian Norris (301) 504-6779.**

**TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORT RATES** -- USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) issued (November 25) price support grade loan rates for the 1994-crop Kentucky and Tennessee dark air-cured tobacco, types 35 and 36 and fire-cured tobacco, types 22 and 23. These grade loan rates reflect the average support level of \$1.273 per pound for dark air-cured tobacco and \$1.483 for fire-cured tobacco. Adjustments made in certain grades reflect the overall grade distribution change. The rates were determined by CCC in consultation with the producer associations that are used to provide price support for the respective types of tobacco. The grade loan rates for Virginia fire-cured tobacco are based on the average support level of \$1.407 per pound, compared with a price support level of \$1.395 per pound for the 1993 crop. The rates were determined in consultation with the Dark Tobacco Sales Cooperative, the producer association that provides price support for these types of tobacco. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DAIRY BOARD** -- The Department of Agriculture is looking for nominations for people to serve on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. Nine regions have openings. Terms are for 3 years, beginning in May and ending in April, and nominations must be submitted by December 23. **Contact: Gil High (202) 720-8998.**

**FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING** -- Why not give them a present that promotes food safety? A meat thermometer, a food timer, cutting boards, slow cookers or other food preparation items make unique gifts, and they're practical too! Even an insulated lunch box for those who like to take their meals from home to work or school is a good idea. For more food safety gift ideas, or for any food safety questions, you can call the **USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline, 1-800-535-4555.**



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA # 1957** -- Brenda Curtis talks with nutrition experts about the best way to escape the holidays without gaining unwanted pounds. (Weekly cassette -- 13-1/2 minute documentary).

**CONSUMER TIME # 1438** -- Be "berry" careful about holiday berries; out on a limb with a Christmas tree forecast; toys and safety; a "fresh" Christmas tree; a living Christmas tree. (Weekly cassette -- 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features).

**AGRITAPE FEATURES # 1948** -- GATT update; a blue Christmas for some hog producers; new export forecast; ASC elections rescheduled; new weather satellite in orbit. (Weekly cassette -- news features).

**UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Note: In December there won't be any 8:30 reports; therefore, we will not update the radio newslines at 10:30 a.m. on crop report days. The crop reports will be issued at 3:00 p.m. EST with the newslines carrying those stories at 5:00 p.m. Upcoming reports include: Friday, December 9, U.S. crop production; world supply/demand. Monday, December 12, world cotton situation; world oilseed update; dairy outlook; world ag and grain production. Tuesday, December 13, crop and weather update; ag income and finance outlook. Wednesday, December 14, industrial uses of ag materials. Thursday, December 15, milk production; sugar outlook. Friday, December 16, cattle on feed; tobacco outlook. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURES** -- Patrick O'Leary reports on an experimental blueberry harvester developed by USDA researchers; DeBora Janifer reports on USDA research on a mechanical "sniffer" for grain inspectors.

**ACTUALITIES** -- USDA chief meteorologist Norton Strommen with his weekly weather and crop update.

**UPCOMING FEATURES** -- Patrick O'Leary reports on the USDA "field office of the future."

### SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:

*Galaxy 7, Transponder 9, Channel 9, Audio 6.2 or 6.8, Downlink frequency 3880 Mhz.  
Available on Thursdays 3:45 - 4:00 p.m., EDT; Mondays 11:00 - 11:15 a.m., EDT.*

*Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services.  
Call Larry A. Quinn, (202) 720-6072; write 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.*

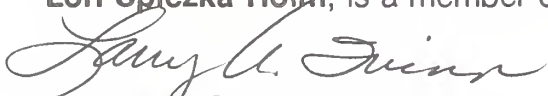
## OFF MIKE

**SPOKESPERSON FOR AGRICULTURE**...competition will be held during the National Young Farmer Educational Institute in Springfield, MO, December 11-14. **Joann Locke** (KTTS, Springfield, MO) will be one of the judges. The state winner selected will travel around to schools and visit local media telling the story of agriculture. Joann is a Southwest Missouri State graduate in agricultural communications who has been on the job for 2-1/2 years. Her daily broadcasts include a lot of market information especially since one of the leading feeder cattle auctions is in her listening area. Joann will be next year's editor of **CHATS**, the newsletter published by the National Association of Farm Broadcasters.

**THUMB AG DAY**...will be celebrated December 7 in Cass City, MI, which happens to be in the "thumb" region of the state. **Rod Zamarron** (Michigan Farm Radio Network, Lansing, MI) says that farmers are wrapping up corn harvest, wheat is in, and soybeans and sugar beets are out of the ground. Rod says their network converted to digital equipment this past year. He records and edits all his material on a computer hard drive. He feels he not only gets a better sound quality, but he can do more in the same amount of time.

**FORMER SECRETARY**...John Block was a recent guest on WINU's "Across the Fence" radio program. (When I came to USDA several years ago, we had a half-hour TV show by that name.) **Kevin Jay** (WINU, Highland, IL) hosts the 7:30 a.m. show each Saturday morning. Kevin said the topic was recent trends in hog markets and grocery price ratios.

**NOT IN MY BACKYARD**...is the cry heard from some in the Minnesota hometown of Farm Director **Kim Spiczka** (WYRQ, Little Falls, MN). An ethanol plant is scheduled to arrive sometime in 1995 bringing much needed jobs and money to the area, but some area residents are protesting location of the plant, saying the smell will drive down home values. Kim's sister, **Lori Spiczka Holm**, is a member of our radio team.



**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**  
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